

Celeb Buzz 18

Limelight affecting Lindsay Lohan's life



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MARCH 25, 2009

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101.3 THE BOUNCE
Stop the CLOCK
EASY MONEY WEEKDAYS
@ 8:13, 12:13 & 4:13

MLAs not satisfied with testimony

INQUIRY A subpoena forced Vicki Harnish, the province's deputy minister of finance, to appear in front of the economic development committee yesterday.

But after two hours of questioning, the MLAs were disappointed with her answers and asked to seek legal consultation on contempt. MLA Graham Steele told CBC that Harnish clearly had instructions not to reveal any information on a fiscal update.

"We're getting very close to the proposition that a fact is not a fact until the minister approves it as a fact then releases it publicly," Steele told CBC.

METRO HALIFAX

Earth Hour

Before you turn your lights off this Saturday at 8:30 p.m. to mark Earth Hour, Metro has some environmental stories to get you thinking "green."

• Metro Drive
 Exploring the green side of the Magna, pg 12



Riding the Recession

Looking for ways to save money and ride out the economic storm? Now through the end of March, Metro will share advice on how to cut down on expenses and navigate your way through the recession.

• Canada
 Inside clothing swap parties, pg 4



Cliff Pierro, a homeless person, asks for change at the corner of Barrington and Prince yesterday. Community Action on Homelessness released a report card on the homeless in the HRM yesterday.

A look to change

Homeless report tables HRM's problems

JENNIFER TAPLIN
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There were no happy faces or A's on this report card.

The Community Action on Homelessness yesterday released the first in-depth look at homelessness in the Halifax Regional Municipality. There's no grade on this report, but there will be next year, said Wayne McNaughton, co-chair of the Community Action on Homelessness.

"Hopefully this report card will ... help people to understand better what homelessness is in the HRM, what it looks like and give some ideas on where we need to improve," he

Results from yesterday's survey

Based on four out of the six emergency shelters in Halifax in 2008:

- 1,252 individuals stayed in shelters
- 753 single men, 340 single women, 77 children under 16

said.

A number of startling finds were uncovered through surveys and data collection with four out of the HRM's six emergency shelters included.

"There are many more shelter users that we have not been able to count, and there are many more homeless people on streets, on couches that really need

How long have you been out of a shelter or home?

- 40 per cent said less than a month
- 33 per cent said one to six months
- 15 per cent said over a year

our support," said Pamela Harrison, Nova Scotia community co-ordinator for Homeless Individuals and Families Information System.

"It's as accurate as we can be today but it's not the whole picture."

Even the numbers they've been able to collect — 1,252 people used shelters last year — are too

many for the HRM, she said.

"The number of homeless people we've been able to count — and those that we haven't that are equally important — need our responses now."

And with a weak economy, more people are vulnerable to losing their jobs and are close to homelessness. McNaughton said the solution is simple: Adequate income, housing and support services.

"People think this is a huge, worldwide problem but we have the resources to resolve Halifax's homeless problem right here in Halifax, right now," he said. "We just have to get our act together."

MORE COVERAGE, PG 2

Nurse advice phone line will cost N.S. \$6.5 million

PHILIP CROUCHER
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HEALTH The province is spending \$6.5 million each year for a new service that will allow people to talk to a registered nurse over the phone.

The 24-hour, seven-day-a-week service announced yesterday by Health Minister Karen Casey is a partnership with McKesson Canada, which will operate the Telecare service throughout the province.

The new service starts in

July and will offer health advice and health information over the phone, including if

15

The number of full-time nurses to be hired.

higher care is needed.

"The Telecare system will make health information more accessible to Nova Scotians, giving them greater control over their own health and well-being," Casey said in a release.

McKesson Canada will hire 15 full-time and 12 part-time telehealth nurses. A contact centre will be located in Dartmouth. In a release issued late yesterday, the Nova Scotia Citizens' Health Care Network slammed this announcement, questioning why the government decided to give the contract to a private, for-profit business.

"This should be a private service, run on a non-profit basis to enhance the health-care system," said Kyle Buott, co-ordinator of the health network.



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Those wanting to get their hands on an original glazed Krispy Kreme doughnut can tomorrow starting at 8 a.m., as the Dalhousie Student Union in partnership with Krispy Kreme, hosts a fundraiser for the IWK Foundation at the student union building on University Avenue. **METRO HALIFAX**

Local



Tall Ships adds Pugwash as port of call

Pugwash has been added as an outpost for Tall Ships Nova Scotia 2009, making it seven ports of call for the province, including Halifax from July 16 to 20. The tall ships will port in Pugwash during its annual Harbourfest Celebrations on July 31 and Aug. 1. **METRO HALIFAX**

'Can't change the weather'

But despite white stuff, sun expected to make comeback today

JENNIFER TAPLIN
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Love it or hate it, the first week of spring in Halifax is more white than green.

Between five and 10 centimetres of snow fell in Halifax yesterday adding to Monday night's snowfall which saw several centimetres hit the ground.

For people looking forward to spring, all this slushy snow is a bit depressing.

"Basically, this is the worst-case scenario," said Ian Cox who just returned to Halifax from a three-year stay in the Persian Gulf.

"I prefer a sandstorm over this."

Nawal Toulany was a lot more patient with the weather.

"It's normal," she said. "I'm used to a lot more snow actually. I found the weather wasn't as bad this year as compared to other years."

But there's no doubt she's anxious for spring and looking forward to the hot days of summer.

"It's coming, just be pa-



A man walks by the gates of the Public Gardens on Spring Garden Road yesterday. The opening of the gardens — a local sign of spring — seems like a long way away as the HRM was hit with more snow yesterday. The Public Gardens traditionally open in May.

tient," she said. "You have to be patient. I mean, what are you going to do? You can't change the weather."

A tractor-trailer jackknifed on Highway 103 near Glenholme yesterday morning. RCMP reported

six vehicles went off the road within one hour on Highway 104, but no injuries were reported.

Then later in the afternoon, there were more reports of vehicles off the road on Highway 104 be-

cause of whiteout conditions.

The sun is scheduled to make an appearance today with a high of 1 C. Things are supposed to get even warmer by the end of the work week.

Chronic health problems revealed in street survey

Many people living on the street have at least three chronic illnesses besides their mental health problems and learning disabilities.

Jean Hughes, a registered nurse with the school of nursing at Dalhousie University, said the combination makes survival on the streets even more challenging.

"We're only as healthy in our community as the people who are the most disadvantaged," she said. "Our city has a lot to think about because if we want to have a healthy community, everybody needs to be healthy."

Yesterday Hughes pulled out some of the findings of the Halifax Street Health Report, a survey of 158 homeless people conducted earlier this year.

Half of the people surveyed, which included youth and adults, reported a major mental health problem, and most reported three chronic illnesses like vision, hearing or mobility problems.

"If you can imagine living with three chronic health conditions while you're housed, imagine what it's like if you're not housed," Hughes said. "That's a ma-

Health report

- 48 per cent indicated they've seriously considered suicide at some point.
- 37 per cent said they suffered from migraines.
- 43 per cent said they suffered from arthritis.
- Over 20 per cent said they have learning disabilities.

ior challenge to survive in our city ... We've got a whole lot of challenges but it's something our city can do something about."

JENNIFER TAPLIN/METRO HALIFAX

metronews.ca

What's online today.

Video The only Mountie to check vital signs of Robert Dziekanski had not been first aid certified in five years, at metronews.ca/canada/Blogs

Blogs Hollywood Rants ponders the puzzling longevity of Nicolas Cage's career.



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Sportfishing anglers with disabilities can get a free general fishing licence when the season opens April 1. Under the new system, an accessible parking identification permit issued by the Registrar of Motor Vehicles will qualify as proof of disability, or through confirmation by a doctor. **METRO HALIFAX**

Saint Mary's saved

PAUL MCLEOD
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Saint Mary's Elementary will stay open, but in a strange twist students and teachers at St. Patrick's-Alexandra applauded yesterday after learning their school would close.

The Halifax Regional School Board initially decided to close the north-end school after this year. But then in a dramatic vote, eight board members tied on whether to delay the closure to September 2011.

That gave the deciding vote to chair Irvine Carvery. He quickly announced he would support the delay, sparking a standing ovation from the packed crowd at Citadel High.

"I think it's reasonable to give the community two years to adjust to their students having to go to new schools," said Carvery, who is from the area of St. Pat's-Alexandra.

"I'm not entirely happy with it. I'm of the opinion that we need a new kind of energy in our community."

The board voted unanimously to keep Saint



Supporters of Saint Mary's school, including Grade 6 teacher Andrea Fader, left, celebrate after the Halifax Regional School Board voted to keep the school open during a meeting at Citadel High School last night.

Mary's school open, despite concerns with the physical facilities.

But they could not make the same case for St. Pat's-Alexandra, which houses students from primary to Grade 9. The school has only 85 students enrolled this year, about one-tenth of its 828 student capacity. Several board members said parents in the area are

choosing to send their children to other schools.

St. Pat's-Alexandra principal Kenneth Fells was saddened by the 5-3 vote to close the school.

"None of the folks up there talked about transition time, what the transition's going to be like for our children to go to other schools. It's going to be very hard," said Fells.

"Our program is adapted to the students in the school. You can't tell me all the resources we impart at our school are going to go to Joseph Howe or these other schools."

Fells predicts the news will cause another hit to enrolment. If it continues to drop, the board may close the school down before September 2011.

Council grapples with development

PAUL MCLEOD
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City hall is caught in a deadlock over whether to approve four developments that go against HRMbyDesign.

The projects would break HRMbyDesign rules — two buildings on Barrington Street would be three times taller than proposed height restrictions — but they were all brought forward last year, before the plan was approved.

Some councillors want to grandfather the developments and allow them to go ahead because HRMbyDesign hasn't come into effect yet.

"When (developers) bought the property 10 years ago they didn't know about HalifaxbyDesign. Had they known they might have only paid half as much," said Fairview-Clayton Park Coun. Russell Walker.

HRM staff also lobbied for grandfathering, saying developers had invested time and money in these projects

in good faith following the rules of the time.

But other councillors argued letting the projects go ahead would erode HRMbyDesign. They also questioned the timing of the proposals. All four proposals were released after the plan was made public, but before it was voted on.

"Yes, maybe they did buy the land 10, 15, 20 years ago. But they didn't submit their plans until after they saw HRMbyDesign," said Clayton Park West Coun. Mary Wile.

The debate continued to the end of a committee of the whole meeting. It will be voted on next Tuesday.

One other project that has a chance to dodge new guidelines is a new world trade centre at the former Chronicle Herald site. That building would far exceed height guidelines.

But a loophole would give an exemption for developments that offer significant social, cultural and economic benefits.

"Yes, maybe they did buy the land 10, 15, 20 years ago. But they didn't submit their plans until after they saw HRMbyDesign."
Coun. Mary Wile

News in brief

CORRECTION The Central Inverness Health Board sent back annual funding from the Nova Scotia Gaming Foundation, not the Nova Scotia Gaming Corporation. Incorrect information appeared in Tuesday's Metro.

VISIONING The Spryfield Community Liasion Group is hosting a public workshop Saturday from 1 to 4 p.m. at the Captain William Spry Community Centre. The meeting is to get residents input into the creation of a Community Vision and Action Plan, which allows residents to think creatively about what is possible for its community 10 to 20 years in the future. **METRO HALIFAX**

N.S. represented in royal awards

Three people with Nova Scotia ties were named recipients yesterday for the 2009 Governor General's Awards in Visual and Media Arts.

Sculpture artist John Greer of West Dublin, Lunenburg Co., interdisciplinary artist and Antigonish native Rita McKeough and Halifax-born glass sculptor Kevin Lockau will each receive their awards at a ceremony tonight at the National Gallery of Canada in Ottawa.

Greer and McKeough

25 The amount in thousands Governor General's Award winners in visual and media arts receive. There were nine winners in 2009.

won for artistic achievement, with Lockau taking his award for excellence in fine crafts.

Greer was the catalyst behind Halifax Sculpture, a 1990s movement rooted in minimalism and conceptualism. He also taught at the Nova Scotia College

of Art and Design for over 25 years.

McKeough, who now lives in Calgary, has been working as an artist for over 30 years, and has contributed to performance and installation art. Lockau, who resides in Ontario, is known for inventing three hot glass casting techniques, which are used to combine animal, natural and human forms.

METRO HALIFAX

ShareYourViews

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Girl honoured for Purple Day

EPILEPSY A local girl from Timberlea-Prospect was honoured before last night's session of Halifax Regional Council for her work in educating people about epilepsy.

Cassidy Megan, 9, is founder of Purple Day, an international grassroots effort dedicated to increasing awareness about epilepsy

worldwide.

Purple Day takes place tomorrow and people are asked to wear purple and spread the word about epilepsy.

Cassidy received a certificate in her honour from HRM Mayor Peter Kelly and District 22 Coun. Reg Rankin. **METRO HALIFAX**

Special delivery sees woman charged

BUST A 35-year-old Summerside woman is facing charges after she picked up packages at the local post office containing cocaine.

Terry Kathleen Wilson has been charged with possession

of cocaine for the purpose of trafficking under the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act. She has been released from custody and will appear in provincial court April 29. **METRO HALIFAX**

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A Toronto lawyer said yesterday that she will file an application to review the decision to bar British MP George Galloway from entering Canada. Galloway was barred from Canada based on allegations he funded Hamas when he recently led an aid convoy into Gaza. Hamas is a banned terrorist group in Canada. **TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**

Canada



Snowbirds to fly until 2020?

Canadian pilots of the iconic Snowbird acrobatic air team could be put at unnecessary risk if the famed planes are pushed another 10 years beyond their lifespan, Defence Minister Peter MacKay has been warned. Documents obtained by The Toronto Star show senior defence officials have asked MacKay to approve a plan that would see the CT114 Tutor jets perform through to 2020. **TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**

Most moms happy with their maternity experience: Survey

HEALTH The majority of Canadian women are happy with their experiences during pregnancy, childbirth and the early months of motherhood, even though most are not breastfeeding long enough and too many are being electronically monitored during labour, according to the first nationwide survey of new mothers.

"Most women have a positive experience in labour and birth. This is a credit to the women, their families and their health-care providers," Dr. Catherine McCourt, director of health surveillance and epidemiology with the Public Health Agency of Canada, said yesterday.

But the survey, which involved 45-minute interviews with 6,421 women, also found that a significant number are continuing with practices that are not recommended by medical experts. **TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**

Rachel Khan, 36, of Toronto holds her newborn son Zak at a breastfeeding clinic. Zak was born on March 3.



Friends and clothes Swishing parties all the rage in recession

ROBYN YOUNG
for Metro Canada

If you find yourself invited to a swishing party, don't expect to be going home with anybody's husband.

But you might just go home with someone's jeans.

The term swishing, coined in the U.K. in 2007 by Futerra, a sustainability communications agency, is used to describe clothes-swapping parties which are all the rage as the economic downturn wears on.

Technically, to "swish" means to rustle, as in silk. But in this context, it means to rustle clothes from friends says Lucy Shea, founder of Swish-ing.org and director at

Riding the Recession

Futerra Sustainability Communications.

Michelle Balcers, a Toronto resident, says clothes-swapping fêtes are a great way to freshen up your wardrobe without opening your wallet.

The 39-year-old is far ahead of her time on the trend: She said she's been hosting clothes-swapping events since her university days.

"We would have informal swaps in apartments and dorm rooms," she said.

These days Balcers is involved in hosting or attending at least two

clothes-swaps per year and said they usually involve generous amounts of wine, some sort of potluck-food arrangement and, of course, bags full of clothes. Leigh-Ann Ingram has attended many of Balcers' swapping parties and said swappers can really luck out sometimes.

She brought an almost new, designer coat to one event that just didn't fit her properly, but fit one of the swappers like a glove. "She walked away feeling very pleased with herself," she said.

For details on how to organize your own swishing party visit www.swishing.org.

Local clothes-swap party events are posted on websites such as Facebook.

Flood of EI claims overwhelms staff

LABOUR Employment insurance claims jumped by almost 24,000 in January, a spike that has sent the Conservative government scrambling to hire more staff to handle the flood of claims.

"We are doing everything we can to process the increasing number of claims in as efficient and timely a manner as possible," Human Resources Minister Diane Finley told reporters yesterday. **TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**

News in brief

HACKER An employee of the Progressive Conservative Party of Ontario has been dismissed after an alleged attempt to hack into an Ontario Liberal party website that has since sparked a police investigation. **CBC NEWS ONLINE**

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Investors taking tougher stand on exec pay

A Canadian campaign to give shareholders a say on how much top executives take home is gaining momentum. **REUTERS**

canada 5

Security of driver's licences questioned

Groups want moratorium on high-tech cards

Civil liberties groups concerned about privacy want a moratorium on enhanced driver's licences until the federal government debates their merit.

Several provinces began issuing the high-tech identity cards as a cheaper alternative to passports. As of June, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security will require them to cross the border by land.

The licences have radio-frequency identification chips containing a unique number that allows border officials to access personal information such as birth

"Enhanced driver's licences ... will create significant privacy concerns."

Roch Tassé,
civil liberties activist

date and citizenship.

"Enhanced driver's licences will not make us safer from terrorism, they will not ease traffic flow at the border, but they will create significant privacy concerns related to flawed technology and dangerous information-sharing agreements with the U.S. and

other governments," Roch Tassé, national co-ordinator of the International Civil Liberties Monitoring Group, told a news conference yesterday.

Driver's licences fall under provincial jurisdiction, but since they were developed to address international security concerns, they should be debated and studied by Parliament, Tassé said.

Manitoba, British Columbia, Ontario and Quebec are issuing the licences, but Saskatchewan announced this week it will scrap its program.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

News in brief

LISTERIA Testing for listeria in food plants by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency has been put on hold until next month after some inconsistencies were found in initial tests,

and because the inspectors have yet to receive training, according to an internal memo.

TASERING Robert Dziekanski might be alive today had he not picked up a stapler while

facing four Mounties in a standoff at Vancouver International Airport, the supervising RCMP officer yesterday told a public inquiry into his death.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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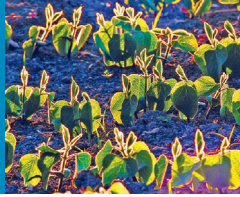
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KEEPING YOU UPDATED

An American woman handcuffed herself to her sleeping husband in an apparent attempt to resolve an argument, but police ended up breaking into their home and charging her with assault and other crimes, authorities said yesterday. **REUTERS**

World



Soy linked to reduced cancer: Study

Asian-American women who ate a lot of soy as children had a 58 per cent reduced risk of developing breast cancer, U.S. researchers said on Monday in a finding that suggests soy may have a protective effect. Historically, breast cancer rates among white women in the United States are four to seven times higher than in women in China or Japan, Regina Ziegler of the National Cancer Institute said in a statement. **REUTERS**

News in brief

ISRAEL Prime Minister-designate Benjamin Netanyahu enlisted Ehud Barak's Labour party yesterday into a partnership that could help Israel's next government avoid friction with Washington on Middle East peace. **REUTERS**

Italian denies filming sex act

BLACKMAIL An Italian man denied yesterday accusations that he filmed secret sex videos used in the attempted blackmail of the heiress to the BMW car empire.

Ernano Barretta said one million euros found in his country home in Italy were his "life savings" and not part of the money that German heiress Susanne Klatten paid to former banker

Helg Sgarbi after Sgarbi seduced her.

Klatten gave Sgarbi 7 million euros, believing he needed the money to avoid jail for paralyzing a child in a traffic accident. **REUTERS**

Obama takes strategy to U.S. public

U.S. President Barack Obama said yesterday his administration was confronting the economic crisis on all fronts and seeing signs of progress as he sought to reassure recession-weary Americans about his recovery strategy.

"We will recover from this recession. But it will take time, it will take patience," he said in the opening statement of his second prime-time White House news conference since he took office on Jan. 20.

Knocked off stride by public anger over hefty corporate bonuses and facing skepticism about his massive budget plan, Obama moved to regain his political footing and refocus attention on his broader economic agenda.

He made his case to the American people the same day he pressed for co-ordinated action among the

Push for power

• Obama said that he believes there will be broad support among the public and Congress for his proposal to give the U.S. Treasury the authority to wind down large failing financial firms, such as American International Group.

world's major economies, and just a day after unveiling a trillion-dollar plan to soak up toxic bank assets at the root of the global financial meltdown.

Obama took the podium after U.S. stocks slid while investors paused to reassess the government's latest effort to clean up bank balance sheets. Brushing aside any doubts, Obama said, "We've put in place a comprehensive strategy designed to attack this crisis on all fronts." **REUTERS**

Requests for asylum climbing

REFUGEES An estimated 383,000 asylum seekers lodged applications to stay in the West in 2008, a 12 percent rise on 2007 as more Somalis and Afghans fled fighting in their homelands, the United Nations said yesterday.

Refugees from Iraq and

elsewhere are now seeking permanent shelter in a wider variety of destinations, possibly because traditional countries of asylum such as Sweden have adopted stricter policies, according to the UN High Commissioner for Refugees. **REUTERS**

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Evidence shows innocence: Lawyer

Forensic evidence in Phil Spector's retrial proves he is not guilty of the shooting death of a Hollywood actress, his lawyer said. **REUTERS**

world 7

Brains or beauty? Women torn: Poll

Women still have a complex and contradictory relationship with their own image according to a poll released yesterday that found 25 per cent of those questioned would rather win the America's Next Top Model TV show than the Nobel Peace Prize.

And although 75 per cent of women surveyed said they'd be willing to shave their heads to save the life

of a stranger, more than a quarter of those taking part admitted they would make their best friend fat for life, if it meant they could be thin. As for that age-old dilemma of whether to marry for wealth or looks, half of the 18- to 24-year-olds questioned said they would marry an ugly man if he were a multimillionaire.

The poll for U.S. television network Oxygen, which is targeted at young

women, also found that 88 per cent of 18- to 34-year-old women would happily give up their cellphone, jewelry and makeup to keep a friendship.

"This survey proves an interesting dissection of today's woman and how she relates her personal image with what she values in her life," said Dr. Jenn Berman, psychotherapist and judge of the new Oxygen series *Pretty Wicked*. **REUTERS**

Australia **Monkey business**



Elke, a five-day-old Francois Langur, makes her media debut at Taronga Zoo's Wildlife Hospital in Sydney yesterday. Taronga's keepers have decided to hand-raise the monkey after she was rejected by her mother.

News in brief

TOURISM Closed since Sept. 11, the crown of the Statue of Liberty, the U.S. monument symbolizing freedom in New York, could reopen to visitors by July 4th, Interior Secretary Ken Salazar said yesterday. The base was reopened in 2004, but access beyond that point is prohibited. **REUTERS**

U.S. unveils border crackdown

SMUGGLING The White House unveiled a new effort yesterday to crack down on the two-way smuggling of drugs, guns and money across its border with Mexico, expressing U.S. President Barack Obama's concern that criminal violence could spill over to U.S. soil.

"The president is concerned by the increased level of violence ... and the impact that it is having on communities on both sides of the border," the White House said a day before Secretary of State Hillary Clinton leaves on a trip to Mexico. **REUTERS**



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The Nova Scotia Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal (NSTIR) and Halifax Regional Municipality (HRM) are exploring the future best use of the Bayers Road / Highway 102 Corridor from Windsor Street, Halifax to Fall River. The study includes traffic projections and functional designs that could be implemented in stages over a 30-year period. The location of the proposed Highway 107 from Akerley Blvd in Burnside to Highway 102 near Duke Street (Exit 4C) has also been updated and evaluated. The study was conducted by Stantec Consulting on behalf of NSTIR and HRM. Two public information sessions will be held to present the findings of the study and the functional design of the roadways and interchanges:

• **Wednesday, February 11, 2009**

at the St. Andrew's Centre, 6955 Bayers Road, Halifax, from 6pm to 9pm with a presentation at 6:30pm.

• **Thursday, February 12, 2009**

at the LeBrun Community Centre, 36 Holland Avenue, Bedford from 6pm to 9pm with a presentation at 6:30pm.

NSTIR, HRM and Consultant staff will be in attendance at the public information sessions to discuss the study and answer questions. If you have questions regarding the upcoming sessions, please contact Bernadette Landry, P. Eng at 434-7331 or by e-mail at bernadette.landry@stantec.com.

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Comment & Views

Tories putting cork in democracy

TheWestView

Paul
Sullivan

metronews.ca/thewestview

The federal Tories — and to a lesser degree the Liberals — are having a little trouble with the idea of democracy.

I don't blame them. No one has ever come up with the perfect democracy. Our first-past-the-post system is

kind of a blunt instrument. It doesn't matter if your candidate gets a pile of votes ... unless they come first, they're not elected.

There's a growing movement for proportional representation, in which a certain percentage of the vote yields a number of elected candidates, which works fine unless the Wing Nut Party gets 20 per cent of the vote, and you end up with 20 MPs with red noses and big shoes.

Nowhere is democracy more scary and raw than at the constituency level. Want your candidate to get

nominated? All you have to do is go around and sign up members, and if you can get enough of them to the nomination meeting, and they vote for your candidate, voila, your candidate is representing the Tories, the Liberals, the NDP, the Greens, etc.

Grassroots democracy. It's a thing of beauty. Of course, beauty is in the eye of the beholder. And the process is so open and free that upsets happen. Not only that, the system is open to abuse and manipulation. We've all heard stories of one-issue candidates

busing in the faithful, packing meetings, and overwhelming the incumbent with a show of force. Too bad — that's democracy, Jack.

Well, the Tories are going to put a cork in democracy by implementing new rules that favour incumbents. If you are one of the 143 who managed to get elected last time, you'll be sitting pretty; you will be acclaimed as your riding's candidate unless two-thirds of the members want an open nomination.

Granted, the party will send the reforms to a vote,

and anyone who was a Tory member as of March 10 will be eligible. But it's the principle of the thing ... accountability is a cornerstone of democracy, and if MPs aren't accountable to members of their own riding associations, the people who recruited and nominated them in the first place, they will end up being more accountable to the Boss, the Right Honourable Stephen Joseph Harper, as if he doesn't already have enough power over his merry band.

The Tories aren't the only ones offering their MPs a

measure of protection. If Michael Ignatieff's 77 Liberals want to be protected from nomination battles they will have to meet membership and donations standards that should be pretty easy to hit: 400 members and 40 "Victory Fund" donors who give \$10 a month. The NDP is the last bastion of free and open nomination battles among the Big Three: No protection — period — for its no doubt uneasy 37 MPs.

Paul Sullivan is a Vancouver-based journalist and owner of Sullivan Media Consulting; vancouverletters@metronews.ca.

Word on the street: Do you think the federal government's proposal to phase out incandescent light bulbs and promote CFL bulbs is actually a bright idea?

Katee
Taylor

age 20,
Antigonish

A: Yes, I do because I believe it will actually force people to take that extra step, which isn't really that hard of a step to take.

Wayne
Burt

age 49, Halifax

A: That I'm not too sure about, mainly because of some of the issues around the compact fluorescents that are coming out now — the heavy metals for example.

Jessie
Ramien

age 25, Halifax

A: I do think it's a bright idea. Anything that helps the environment is a good idea. It reduces the use of electricity, which helps cut down on pollution.

Ryan
Correia

age 20,
Vancouver

A: It's a great idea because at home we only use the compact fluorescent light bulb ... which saves us a lot of money.

Carman
Fox

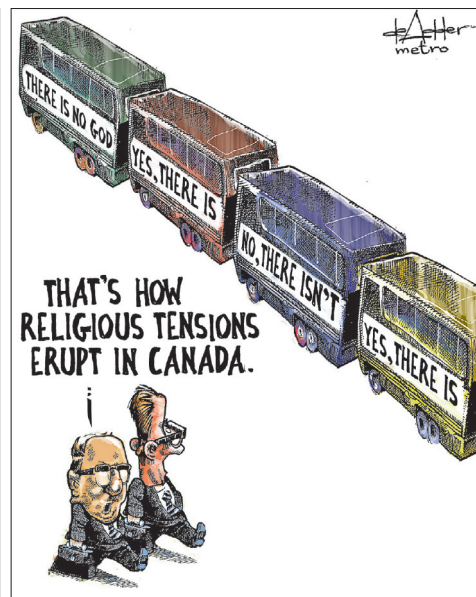
age 26, Calgary

A: It's green, but I don't think it should be a high priority right now.

Anna
Labetsky

age 18, Toronto

A: It's about time. I think it's a good idea, but it's really behind. It's trying to send a message, but Europe did this a long time ago.



It's your turn to tell others what you think. Email your thoughts and opinions to: halifaxletters@metronews.ca

Letters must include sender's full name, address and phone number — street name and phone numbers will NOT be published. We reserve the right to edit letters.

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Berlusconi asks Italy to work harder

Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi said yesterday Italy was well placed to emerge from the global economic downturn but he urged his countrymen to work harder. **REUTERS**

9

Business

EDITOR: FERMIN.DESOUZA@METRONEWS.CA

Oil firms target shareholder law

TAKEOVER Suncor Energy Inc. and Petro-Canada have agreed in their takeover accord to try to get the government to repeal a federal law that limits how big a stake in Petro-Canada a single shareholder can own.

Meantime, the companies have agreed that the Petro-Canada Act, which limits individual shareholdings to 20 per cent, would apply to the combined company after Suncor completes its takeover of Petro-Canada.

REUTERS

Bankruptcies rise

Consumers struggling but businesses OK

In yet another sign that the recession is bearing down, the number of Canadian consumers filing for bankruptcy rose sharply in January.

At the same time, the number of businesses across the country filing for bankruptcy fell slightly when compared to January 2008, according to figures released yesterday by the Office of the Superintendent of Bankruptcy Canada.

There were 8,392 bank-

El claims

The number of people receiving Employment Insurance benefits rose to 560,400 in January, up 4.4 per cent from December, according to Statistics Canada.

ruptcies in January, up 19 per cent when compared to January 2008.

Of those, 7,944 were filed by consumers, almost

22 per cent more than a year earlier.

Overall, businesses filed 448 bankruptcies, nearly 15 per cent fewer than a year ago. The decline seems to reflect that this recession was not caused by higher interest rates, and corporations and businesses were mostly in good shape just prior to it setting in, said Doug Porter, deputy chief economist at BMO Capital Markets.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

The DAILY BUSINESS BUZZ

MedMira, Tri-Star unite:

Halifax's MedMira Inc., a developer and marketer of rapid diagnostic tests, and Yarmouth's Tri-Star Industries, a manufacturer and exporter of ground ambulances, have announced a partnership that will market and sell co-branded rapid diagnostics.

Tax-hike concerns:

The Truro and District Chamber of Commerce is concerned that business owners in Colchester County are going to have to deal with "a 10-cent hike for commercial taxes and a five-cent jump for residential," said president Jim Lorraine.

Digby debt load:

Mayor Ben Cleveland warned the Digby Area Board of Trade last week that the town will soon add as much as \$1.5 million to its debt load. The town is about to commit \$3.5 million for a wastewater system upgrade because of pressure from the federal government.

Fire labelled arson:

It appears a fire set sometime between noon and 3 p.m. March 21 at the former Steel and Engine Products site in Liverpool was arson, according to a Queens RCMP press release. An estimated \$5,000 worth of property used in the maintenance of large ships was lost.

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Business in brief

MORTGAGES Canadian banks have less need of a government program to buy up to \$125 billion in insured mortgages, based on the latest

auctions, a senior official at the government's housing agency said yesterday.

AIG Fifteen of 20 AIG leading bonus recipients have agreed

to give them back in full, said New York's top legal officer, who is probing \$165 million US in executive pay at the troubled company. **REUTERS**

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Brandon Verge of the Saint Mary's Huskies has been named Atlantic University Sport male athlete of the week. The Fall River goalie led the Huskies to an AUS title, stopping 56 of 59 shots in two wins over the New Brunswick Varsity Reds. **METRO HALIFAX**

Sports

EDITOR: JOHN.CHICK@METRONEWS.CA

New job for Mongrain

Former Halifax Mooseheads head coach Bob Mongrain, right, has stepped down as head coach of the Moncton Aigles Bleus men's hockey team. Mongrain, who went 70-30-9 in four seasons and won an Atlantic University Sport title in 2007, has signed with Sierre of Swiss Nationalliga B. **METRO HALIFAX**



Screaming Eagles one win away

QMJHL The Cape Breton Screaming Eagles have grabbed a 3-0 stranglehold over the Saint John Sea Dogs in the QMJHL best-of-seven first round. The Eagles dumped the host Sea Dogs 8-3 last night.

Nicolas Chouinard had two goals and two assists. At Charlottetown, the Moncton Wildcats also grabbed a 3-0 series lead, winning 3-2 in overtime over the P.E.I. Rocket courtesy of a David Savard hat trick.

METRO HALIFAX

Maineiacs staying put, for now

QMJHL The Lewiston Maineiacs are not going anywhere after all. The QMJHL club announced yesterday it is staying in Maine for another season, despite being granted league permission to relocate.

The Maineiacs had reportedly tried to orchestrate moves to Boisbriand, Que., and Fredericton, N.B.

METRO HALIFAX

Rainmen nemesis Gill suspended

PBL Halifax Rainmen nemesis Randy Gill has been suspended by the Detroit Panthers for the rest of the Premier Basketball League season.

Gill, third in the PBL with a 21.9 points-per-game average, failed to show up for games, the team said. He was booed mercilessly during two stops in Halifax.

METRO HALIFAX

For more sports coverage, visit: metronews.ca



Playing through the pain

Injured ankle can't keep Cole Harbour's Blake Gallagher off the ice

MATTHEW WUEST
matthew.wuest@metronews.ca

If Blake Gallagher is going to play his way into the Frozen Four, he's going to have to do it on a frozen foot.

Despite having a high ankle sprain and needing a walking cast to get around campus at Cornell University in Ithaca, N.Y., the Cole Harbour native has been getting injections to freeze his foot so he can continue to suit up for the Big Red.

Gallagher, a junior forward, helped his team get to this weekend's NCAA tournament — hockey's version of the Sweet 16 — by playing through plenty of pain in a must-win double-overtime victory over Princeton last Friday.

"It actually wore off during the third and they had to freeze it again for overtime," Gallagher said. "Obviously it's nothing you want to do, but at that point in the season I wanted to play. I wanted to give our team a chance to win. I'm glad I did. We won and now we're in the NCAA tournament."

The five-foot-seven, 175-pound former Dartmouth Subways captain is still waiting to find out if he can play on Saturday against Northeastern. He said his ankle is being examined closely this week and that doctors might not give him clearance to have it frozen again if the damage is severe.

"It doesn't look good," he admitted.

Gallagher's presence is important for Cornell. He



Cole Harbour's Blake Gallagher is playing for the Cornell Big Red in the NCAA tournament despite having an ankle injury.

has played an increasingly important role with the squad over the past three years, and earned second-team all-Ivy League honours two weeks ago after posting 26 points in 33 games.

He was particularly strong in the second half, scoring all six of his goals among 21 points in a 19-game stretch.

All in all, he's thrilled with his decision to further his hockey career at

Another local talent

• Blake Gallagher isn't the only local product in this weekend's hunt to qualify for the NCAA Frozen Four.

Cole Harbour's Marc Cheverie, a sophomore goaltender with the Denver Pioneers,

a U.S. college instead of major junior, a direction few Nova Scotian teens choose to take.

"I absolutely love it," he

faces Miami of Ohio on Friday.

The Florida Panthers' seventh-round draft choice has sparkling numbers this season with a 23-11-5 record, a 2.30 goals-against average and a .923 save percentage.

said. "We probably have the loudest fans in the country night-in, night-out. Our rink is packed every night. It's an unbe-

lievable experience."

With or without Gallagher, Cornell is as good a bet as any to emerge from the Midwest Regional.

It has a 21-9-4 record and is in the Top 10 of most national rankings.

And if Cornell gets to the Frozen Four?

"I'll definitely play," Gallagher said with a laugh. "If they cut my foot off, I'd still play in the Frozen Four."

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Appeals court upholds verdict against Pistons' Iverson

Allen Iverson must pay \$260,000 US for standing by and watching his bodyguard beat up another man in a 2005 bar fight, a U.S. appeals court ruled yesterday. Martin Godfrey accused the bodyguard of assaulting him because he refused to vacate the VIP area at a D.C. nightclub to make way for Iverson and his entourage. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

sports **11**

Bosh says he will take responsibility

Amid unproven allegations he's denied a former girlfriend financial support for a months-old daughter the woman says he fathered, Chris Bosh came out in defence of his character and vowed to handle his parental duties.

The Toronto Raptors all-star forward, who turned 25 yesterday, refused comments on the specifics of a lawsuit filed by a former lover, but said he would honour any commitments.

"All I can say is that I'm going to take care of my responsibilities like I've been doing in the past and in the future and keep respecting everyone," Bosh told a throng of reporters yesterday.

"I love my daughter, I love myself and I respect her mother and I'll leave it at that."

In court papers filed in her native Maryland, Allison Mathis has accused Bosh of abandoning her and her unborn child when she was seven months pregnant and denying her financial support, even when she became ill late in the pregnancy. The suit, which has not been proven in court, asks for unspecified child support and sole custody of Trinity Meyers Mathis, now just over four months old.

"I hope everybody respects my wishes to keep it quiet," Bosh said.

The scandal is the by far the most serious hit to a

"I love my daughter, I love myself and I respect her mother."

Chris Bosh

squeaky-clean image Bosh has built in six seasons with the Raptors. The team's leading scorer and rebounder — and a four-time NBA all-star — has built a reputation as a solid citizen thanks to the work of his Chris Bosh Foundation with disadvantaged youth in Toronto.

He said he's unconcerned about any damage to his legacy.

"It's not a disappointment," he told a throng of reporters.

"I know how things are, so if I can live with myself, that's all I want. I know what I've done and you know, it's all good things. Contrary to what some people say, I know that I have a positive outlook on everything, I respect everyone and things have always been good for me. People closest to me don't call it in to question."

"They know the situation, they know what it is. That's all that really matters. I'm just going to keep doing what I've been doing. I think people know me and people that do know me know what I represent and know how I am. As long as they don't call it in to question, that's all that matters." **TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**

Morace's goals within reach for Canadian women

DUANE ROLLINS
for Metro Canada



SOCCER When Carolina Morace took over the head coaching position of the Canadian women's soccer team, she knew she saw a lot of promise. But she also knew she was in for a lot of work.

"It's a challenge," she said. "That's why I took the job — for the challenge."

Morace was in Toronto yesterday to promote her home coaching debut, which will take place May 25 against Japan at BMO Field. She said that it's her goal to make the women the "No. 1 team" for Canadians. The game should sell itself, she suggested.

"I started following soccer by watching TV and I enjoyed the movement of the game," she said.

"People love players like

Cristiano Ronaldo or (Lionel) Messi. They are attracted to them because they are technical players. They are creative. I think we can teach some of that movement, but we need people (in Canada) to love the game."

According to Morace, Canada started to play that kind of technical game at the recent Cyprus Cup, where it finished with the silver medal, losing 3-1 to

England in the final.

"The girls are already playing the new way," Morace said through an interpreter.

"There are no more long balls. The ball is at their feet."

In addition to the May 25 game, Morace said that the team is planning to play a two-game series with the United States and a tournament in Mexico this summer.

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NHL Habs get must-win



Carey Price makes a save on Atlanta's Ilya Kovalchuk last night. Montreal won 6-3, snapping a five-game losing streak.

SHAWN BETHREUTERS

Metro Drive

EDITOR: KUMAR SAHA, KUMAR.SAHA@METRONEWS.CA

Toyota tops

Toyota took five segment awards, more than any other nameplate in 2009, for the Highlander, Prius, Sequoia, Solara and Tundra, in the J.D. Power and Associates 2009 Vehicle Dependability Study, Canadian Driver reports.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

The green side of Magna

Alliance with Ford, concept car part of eco-friendly direction

MARK ATKINSON
for Metro Canada



Canada's Magna unveiled the Mila EV concept at the recent Geneva auto show.

Perhaps the most amazing thing about modern vehicle assembly is that there's really very little of the vehicle itself manufactured by the manufacturer. For example, when the Ford Model T was introduced in 1908, everything on the car was produced at one of Ford's factories. Even the steel for the body and engine was smelted on site.

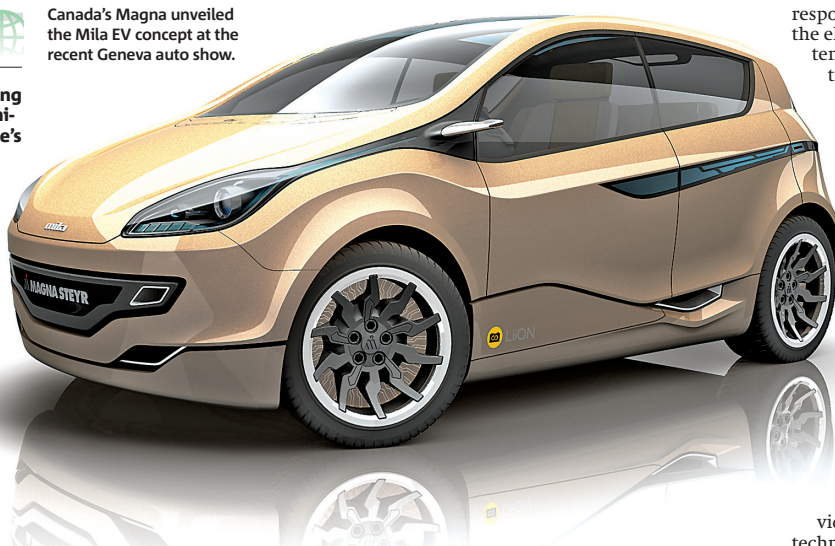
Today, it's the suppliers on whom the auto industry is built upon; everything from spark-plugs to seats comes straight from a supplier. It makes sense for automakers to purchase these parts from elsewhere, especially when there are huge quality improvements and cost savings involved; if a power-window switch can be made for less money and last longer, that's a win-win in anyone's books.

But what happens when a supplier decides it wants to build a car? That's been the case for Aurora, Ont.-based Magna International,

one of the world's largest automotive suppliers.

Magna is edging closer to the role of not only of automaker, but an environmentally conscious one at that. This Canadian corporation is aiming to become the world's leader in electric cars.

While there's plenty of green growing from Canadian soil with companies like ZENN and Electrovaya going for the low-speed electric market, Magna's



EarthHour

aiming for higher ground, and its size gives it advantages that the others can only dream of.

Announced at January's Detroit auto show, the first signal was a partnership with Ford, which both companies hope will culminate in a brand-new battery-electric vehicle (BEV)

responsibility to integrate the electric propulsion system and other new systems into the vehicle platform architecture."

The next step came when Magna showed off its Mila EV concept car at the Geneva auto show recently.

Robertson is quick to point out that they're still two separate programs, and that the Mila could potentially be "sold" to another automaker.

"Without getting into specifics, we can say that the Mila EV does provide a preview of some technologies that could ultimately be used in the Ford BEV.

Both projects make use of multiple Magna operating groups, and we share the synergies and lessons learned that go along with the collaborative efforts."

Robertson explains that Magna's "green" strategy includes "developing components and systems for hybrid electric vehicles, plug-in hybrid vehicles and battery electric vehicles."



The Mitsubishi i-MiEV

Mitsu's i-MiEV flies high

AWARD Mitsubishi Motors' zero-emission urban transport solution, the pure-electric i-MiEV, has been named as one of the top three contenders in the prestigious World Green Car competition.

Joining the Mitsubishi i-MiEV as finalists are the Honda FCX Clarity and Toyota iQ.

The innovative i-MiEV was selected from a list of five first-round finalists—pared from an original list of more than 20 cars by an international panel of 59 automotive journalists. The winner will be announced at the New York International Auto Show on April 9.

Scheduled to go on sale in the Japanese market this summer and currently undergoing U.S. testing with Pacific Gas and Electric and Southern California Edison, Mitsubishi is also looking to demonstrate i-MiEV and its capabilities to the Canadian public and in the Canadian market.

FROM CARGUIDE

Chevy Traverse move in right direction

JIM ROBINSON
for Metro Canada



GM is supposed to be going away from the minivan, but is it really?

New to the Chevrolet lineup is the 2009 Traverse CUV. While Traverse shares much with the Buick En-

clave and Saturn Outlook, Chevrolet's version looks more like a 4X4 SUV when it is, in fact, a minivan.

And that's the clever part of the Traverse. It has all the seven- or eight-seat passenger utility of a minivan, while having that rugged SUV look that remains in vogue these days.

The Traverse has a six-speed automatic transmission and comes standard in front-wheel-drive (FWD) or optional all-wheel-drive (AWD).

Fuel consumption on the 1LT FWD as tested is 12.7L/100 km (22 mpg) city and 8.4L/100 km (34 mpg) highway. With four-wheel

independent suspension and four-wheel disc brakes, the Traverse 1LT comes standard with anti-lock brakes and Stabili-Trac, GM's take on stability control.

A battery of airbags is standard, as is front and rear air conditioning and cruise control.



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Iraq is banking on tourism as a sector that will help it rebuild after years of bloodshed and rife kidnapping drove Westerners away. The country already attracts thousands of religious tourists. **REUTERS**

Travel

The world's economic slowdown has reduced your odds of losing a bag the next time you fly, an industry group says.



REUTERS

Here's why

New fees to encourage passengers to travel with less and lighter baggage have also reduced the number of bags being loaded onto the wrong flights and conveyer belts.

TRAVELDESK@METRONews.CA

An island rises out of the ashes

DAVID WHITLEY
for Metro Canada



Gingerbread Hill would have to be one of the strangest guesthouses on the planet.

It's tucked down the hill off a little side road branching out from Montserrat's main thoroughfare; goats amble across the driveway with impunity and the early morning wake-up call comes courtesy of the cockerels. A gate leads to a rough pathway leading up to a cemetery, and from that gate there is a spectacular view of the hillsides, gullies and the Caribbean Sea.

It doesn't seem so much a guesthouse as a family home in the countryside, and that alone is enough to make for an experience far removed from the stereotypical Caribbean vacation. But this guesthouse also happens to be the best place to immerse yourself in the spectacular, terrifying story of the 1995 vol-

Getting there

- To get to Montserrat, you need to get a flight with WinAir, fly-winair.com, from nearby Sint Maarten or Antigua.
- Rooms at Gingerbread Hill, volcano-island.com, start at \$45 US a night for the backpacker special. The Heavenly Suite costs \$125 a night.

canic eruption that doused much of the island.

Gingerbread Hill is run by the Lea family — or the Famileas, as they like to call themselves. They're American refugees, having decided to leave home when their favourite hippie haunts such as Boulder and Key West started yuppiefying.

As they tell it, they wanted to live someplace their children could "grow up a little slower, have a tree-house and a rope swing" and they could "pick fruit off the trees."

David and Clover originally came out to the is-

land as missionaries, but cut the church ties early. David worked as the prison chaplain, ran a youth centre and embarked on a television career selling feel-good programs across the Caribbean. Meanwhile, they gradually did up their house in what was — at the time — the middle of nowhere.

And then the Soufriere Hills volcano erupted. The southern part of the island was evacuated, scientists and media crews arrived in droves, and the Leas were asked if they could help out by putting someone up. They did, and that was the beginning of their guesthouse. There are now four accommodation options, ranging from a surprisingly well equipped backpacker room to a fantastic suite with full kitchen and rooftop sun-deck.

What's more, the family members are more than happy to talk about the island's experiences, and will even organize tours to spots within the exclusion zone if you wish to go behind enemy lines and see spectacular valleys of pure ash and mud.

Montserrat is slowly getting back on its feet, although the volcano is still highly active. For the visitor, there's the chance to see things that cannot be seen anywhere else on earth.

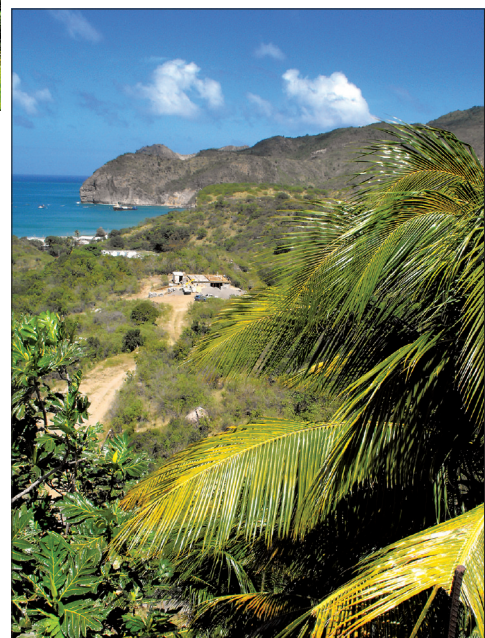
The views of the buried capital, Plymouth, from either the hilltops or on a boat from the sea are genuinely extraordinary — it is almost entirely buried, aside from a few rooftops



Soufriere Hills volcano, seen from the Montserrat Volcano Observatory, erupted in 1995. At right, the expansive view from the grounds of Gingerbread Hill.

sticking out above the debris. The island's real asset, however, is its village-like atmosphere. Everyone knows everyone, and newcomers are welcomed in instantly. Drop by at a local bar for a beer, and you'll be caught up in conversation or a game of dominos in no time.

It's an attitude that Gingerbread Hill typifies. It's nothing like the standard Caribbean beach resort, and it's all the better for it. Montserrat is something completely, brilliantly different.



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It's raining in Spain

The number of tourists visiting Spain fell by 15.9 per cent in February compared to the same month a year earlier, the steepest fall since the economic crisis began to hit the country's second-largest industry. **REUTERS**

Jungle survival 101

The Travel Junkie



metronews.ca/traveljunkie

Vancouver-born lodge owner Ian Anderson knows how to keep his visitors busy. Caves Branch Jungle Lodge, located in the Western part of Belize, offers multi-day, eco-friendly treks for the adventurous traveller, from caving expeditions tubing underground rivers, to rappelling rainforest canopies, to mountain biking along Mayan ruins.

While there are plenty of things to do across this 58,000 acre private estate, it was the jungle survival course that piqued my interest. This day-long expedition was my chance to learn the basics of surviving in a harsh jungle environment. I'd learn how to make shelter, find edible plants, and set handmade



Ching, a Caves Branch guides.

traps to catch birds and small animals (just the kind of skills this urban dweller might need one day).

From the comfort of the lodge, I set out into the wilderness with a team of well-trained local guides. It's a lot easier to survive when you have members of the Belize Disaster and Rescue Response Team showing you the ropes.

With heavy rains the night before, the path was slick with slippery roots and chocolate-pudding-like mud. Stepping over a swarm of fiery marching ants scurrying single file, I realized that the jungle isn't the most hospitable of

environments. There are vines with spikes, trees with thorns, and branches with natural barbed wire.

When we arrived at a clearing, the team threw down their gear and launched into their lesson plan for Survival 101: Shelter. Together, we built an A-frame structure out of sticks, bark and the umbrella-like leaves of a Bay Palm.

Food was the next item on the itinerary. The guys showed me how to build rat traps from branches and improvised twine. With my trap set, I waited patiently. Sadly, catching my very own rodent dinner wasn't easy, so I was forced to dine on another good source of protein: A handful of orange termites.

Spending a day with the Caves Branch team hacking through the jungle and testing my endurance, I realized that the jungle has everything you need to survive. You just have to learn where to look.

Julia Dimon is co-host of Word Travels, airing Sundays at 9:30 p.m. on OLN; juliadimon.com.



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Dwayne Johnson insists there is "no one else" who can take on the part he wants in The Adventures of Jonny Quest, The wrestler-turned-actor is desperate to land the role of special agent Roger (Race) Bannon in the live-action adaptation. FEMALEFIRST.CO.UK

Johnson on Quest for role

Entertainment

EDITOR: DEAN.LISK@METRONews.CA

Letterman & wife

And the No. 1 thing to do in Montana: Get married. David Letterman said Monday that he married longtime girlfriend Regina Lasko, before a justice of the peace March 19 in Choteau, Mont. PEOPLE.COM

STEVE GOW
for Metro Canada

You might not think it to look at the Oscar-nominated actress, but Virginia Madsen is actually a big fan of scary movies. And there's a reason why.

"I'm attracted to ghost hunters and Bigfoot and UFO footage; all that stuff just absolutely fascinates me," admitted Madsen during a recent interview in

Vancouver. "I'm just naturally attracted to it. With cellphones and iPhones and all of our new gadgets, I think pretty soon, you're not going to be able to deny that it exists."

Well, whether or not you believe in aliens or the Sasquatch or haunted houses, there's no denying the Sideways star's unequivocal dedication to trying to track down a good ghost story. Madsen insists her latest thriller, The Haunting in Connecticut (which opens in theatres this Friday), was the first truly spooky script she had read in 10 years.

"By page three or four, I was invested in the mother and son," said Madsen, who is a mother to a teenaged son herself. "A lot of times, they don't give (characters) a lot of



Virginia Madsen stars as Sara in The Haunting in Connecticut.

time in a horror film (to develop) so I just loved the script."

The script in question

examines a series of horrific events that encounter a family struggling not only with their ailing child, but

with an old Victorian home that unleashes a paranormal terror upon its new residents. Based on a

real story that producer Andrew Trapani first discovered in 2003, The Haunting in Connecticut is only heightened by its powerful authenticity.

"That's what attracted me to the project," said co-star Amanda Crew (Sex Drive). "It's one of those horror stories that I always like because, not only is it realistic, but you know that it's actually happened."

"The story becomes more frightening when you're invested in the people," added Madsen. "When you're dealing with things that might be under your bed or might be in the mirror or maybe could be in your house, of course it plays on our deepest childhood fears so it's really going to get you on a deeper level."

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HA	H	D	B	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
31	31	31	ABC	News (N)	ABC World News	Inside Edition	Chronicle	Scrubs	Better Off Ted	Lost "He's Our You" (N)	Life on Mars	
7	7	7	ASN	The Road to Avonlea	Instant Star	TMZ (N)		America's Next Top Model (N)		Lost "He's Our You" (N)	Law & Order	
11	11	11	CBC	Coronation St.	Jeopardy! (N)	Stars on Ice		Being Erica (N) (DVS)		CBC News: The National	The Hour	
2	2	2	CBC-F	Terre humaine	Pyramid (SC)	Virginie (SC)	L'Épicerie	Le Match des étoiles (N) (SC)		Les Invisibles (N) (SC)	Le Téléjournal	
32	32	32	CBS	News (N)	Evening News	The Insider (N)	Entertainment	Survivor: Tocantins (N)		Criminal Minds (N)	CSI: NY	
69	69	69	CFTM	TVA 18 heures	Le Cercle (SC)	Poule-oufs or	Star Académie:	Destinées "Poison lent" (SC)		Dommages et intérêts (SC)	TVA 22 heures	
6	6	6	CHIF	Entertainment	ET Canada	(8:02) Life on Mars		Survivor: Tocantins (N)		Lie to Me	News (N)	
9	9	9	CJCH	talk	Hollywood	CSI: NY (HDTV) (N)		American Idol (HDTV) (Live)			News (N)	
10	10	10	ELTV	Swap Shop (Live)		Fuelin' Around	Au Natural	Doc Talk	Fuelin' Around	EastLink Television		
36	36	36	FOX	Deal-No Deal	The Simpsons	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	American Idol (HDTV) (Live)			Fox First	
12	12	12	NBC	News (N)	NBC News	Hollywood	Extra (N)	The Chopping Block (N)		Life "5 Quarts" (N)	Law & Order	
29	29	29	NW	World News	Business	CBC News	Newman	The Hour		CBC News: The National	I, Psychopath	
4	4	4	PBS-B	NewsHour With Jim Lehrer	Greater Boston	Ask This Old		Great Performances "King Lear" (HDTV) (N)				
35	35	35	PBS-D	NewsHour With Jim Lehrer	Business Rpt.	Worldfocus		Great Performances "King Lear" (HDTV) (N)				
68	68	68	TQS	Drôle	450 chemin	Loft Story	Drôle	Le Mur		Bob Graton	Bob Graton	110 pour cent
36	36	36	BNN	Business News	Headline	Market Call	Commodities	Workopolis TV	Business News	Squeeze Play	Market Call	
18	18	18	CNN	Situation Room-Wolf Blitzer	Lou Dobbs Tonight			Campbell Brown: No Bias		Larry King Live (N)	Cooper 360	
54	54	54	GOLF	Golf Central	Top 10	The Golf Fix	Lessons	19th Hole (N)	Top 10	Arnold Palmer Highlights	Haney Project	
52	52	52	RSE	Sportsnet Connected		Billiards World Cup of Pool.		World Combat League		The Ultimate Fighter	Sportsnet Con.	
55	55	55	SCOR	Hockey Talk	Game On	NBA Basketball Milwaukee Bucks at Toronto Raptors. (Live)				Score Tonight		
45	45	45	SPD	Unique Whips		Pimp My Ride	Pass Time	Pinks Outtakes	Pinks Outtakes	Pinks (HDTV)	Drag Race	Drag Race
53	53	53	TSN	Off the Record	SportsCentre	That's Hockey!	NHL Hockey Calgary Flames at Pittsburgh Penguins. (HDTV) (Live)				SportsCentre	
43	43	43	FAM	Zoe 101	Life Derek	Wizards-Place	Han. Montana	Zack & Cody	Latest Buzz	Wizards-Place	Life Derek	Ned's School
44	44	44	TOON	Ben 10	Johnny Test	Totally Spies	Total Drama	6TEEN	6TEEN	Futura	American Dad	Robot Chicken
26	26	26	TREE	Wonder Pets	Big & Small	Backyardigans	Night Grdn	Max & Ruby	Franklin	Little Bear	Bucket-Dinos	Big Comfy
27	27	27	YTV	Drake & Josh	iCarly	In Real Life (N)		Malcolm-Mid.	Futura	Karaoke Star Junior	Falcon Beach	
16	16	16	A&E	Cold Case Files		CSI: Miami (HDTV)		Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Dog the Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	
70	70	70	APTN	News (N)		Canadian Geographic		James Houston: Interesting		APTN National News: Contact		
50	50	50	BET	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live				Dirty ** (2005, Crime Drama) Cuba	Gooding Jr.		Harlem Heights	
37	37	37	BRVO	Street Legal		The Achievers	Landscape	Arts & Minds	Bravo! Videos	Wingfield	Wingfield	Death at-Opera
25	25	25	CMT	All About	All About	CMT's Greatest		Home Improve.	Home Improve.	Reba	Reba	Hope & Faith
49	49	49	COM	Laughs	Comedy Now	Far Force	Just for Laughs	Comer Gas	Comer Gas	The Simpsons	South Park	Jon Dore Show
153	153	153	COURT	Struggle for Justice		World's Wildest Police Videos		Cops Uncut	Dumb Criminal	Declassified "Viet Cong"	Police Videos	
38	38	38	DISC	How it's Made	How it's Made	Daily Planet (N)		Dirty Jobs		Deadliest Catch	Mayday	
34	34	34	HGTV	Holmes on Homes		House Hunters	Property Virgin	Mansions	Property Shop	Property Virgin	Unsellable	Hit Potential
46	46	46	HIST	Outlaw Bikers		NCIS "Call of Silence"		Outlaw Bikers		Ice Road Truckers	NCIS	
17	17	17	MM	Born to Be	Born to Be	Springbreak.09		Redemption	Redemption	Buck Naked	Exposed	Video on Trial
19	19	19	MMM	MusicProfile	mmmtop10.com			Where You At	Revival	Confessions of a Teen Idol	Confessions	
201	201	201	M1	(6:15) Elizabeth: The Golden Age **				Unstable Fables: Tortoise vs. Hare (2008)		Blades of Glory *** (2007, Comedy)		
48	48	48	OLN	American Gladiators		Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Survivorman		Mantracker	Mantracker	Bounty Hunter
51	51	51	PEACH	Seinfeld	[Friends	House-Payne	House-Payne	Spider-Man *** (2002, Action) Tobey Maguire, Willem Dafoe				
206	206	206	PIX	(6:15) Brazil (1985)		(8:15) Betrayed (2003, Suspense) Kar Matchett.				Sir of Echoes *** (1999, Suspense)		
67	67	67	RDI	RDI en direct	RDI en direct	24 Hours en 60 minutes		Grands reportages (SC)		Le Téléjournal (SC)		RDI en direct
39	39	39	SHOW	Wife Swap		The Outer Limits		Cashing In	About a Girl	G-Spot	Cock'd Guns	Big Love
40	40	40	SLICE	The Mom Show		Skin Deep	Til Debt-Part	Chop Shop	End of Leash	End of Leash	Kimora: Fab	
47	47	47	SPACE	Stargate SG-1		Stargate Atlantis (DVS)		Star Trek: Voyager		Primeval	Stormworld (N)	
14	14	14	SPiKE	CSI: NY (HDTV)		CSI: Crime Scene Investg.		CSI: Crime Scene Investg.		UFC Fight Night		
57	57	57	STAR	talk	Hollywood	The Ellen DeGeneres Show (N)		TMZ (N)	talk	Blush: Make-Up Artist		Tonight Show
21	21	21	TLC	What Not to Wear		Jon & Kate Plus 8		Jon & Kate	Jon & Kate	Jon & Kate	Jon & Kate	
56	56	56	34 TROP	What Happen?	What Happen?	Vanity Insanity	Ad Persuasion	Ad Persuasion	Seinfeld	Raymond	Family Guy	
20	20	20	TVS	Que-champion	Journal de Fr2	Humanima	Mixeur	Le Soleil au-dessus des nuages (2000, Drame)		Rosa Rosa	Peur	
28	28	28	V	Side Effects		Murder, She Wrote		Summer Wine	Foot in Grave	Life Times		Driven-Vision
60	60	60	97 VIVA	Mysterious Ways		Judging Amy		Medium		Medium "Light Sleeper"		Mediums
22	22	22	W	Style by Jory	Style by Jory	Will & Grace	Friends	Grocery	Grocery	Supersize vs. Superskinny		Stuck (N)
251	251	251	WGN	Be-Millionaire	Evening News	Two/Half Men	Family Guy	America's Next Top Model (N)		90210 (HDTV)		WGN News

critics' corner

Stars on Ice

This figure skating special is an international affair, but Canada is well represented by newly minted world champion Jeffrey Buttle and four-time world champ Kurt Browning and 2002 Olympic gold medal-winning pair Jamie Sale and David Pelletier. Olympic silver medalist Sasha Cohen also shows her moves. 8 PM on CBC



Being Erica

You! Out of that box! And that shell, while you're at it! In this new episode, Erica (Erin Karp-luk) is feeling intimidated and inadequate in her new job at River Rock Publishing. She needs to get over her inhibitions and figure out that her skills aren't as limited as she thinks they are. Tyron Leitso and Michael Riley also star in "Erica the Vampire Slayer." 9 PM on CBC

Law & Order

While investigating the murder of a TV reporter, Detectives Lupo and Bernard (Jeremy Sisto, Anthony Anderson) learn that she was involved in a love triangle, a discovery that leads them in turn to veteran anchor Joe Delaney (guest star David Rasche), who may have hacked into the e-mail of his younger, more successful co-workers to gain an advantage over them. Linus Roache also stars in the new episode "Anchors Away." 11 PM on ASN, NBC

17

The runway shuffle

RAFAEL BRUSILOV
for Metro Canada

Last night's Project Runway Canada episode was a double-shocker as two previously eliminated designers came back and two more got sent home.

The contestants were dragged out to a camping ground where designers Jason Meyers and Genevieve Graham, who had already been cut in previous episodes, crawled out of tents to reveal that they had been reinstated on the show, with a catch: They had to win the next challenge or get sent home again.

Designers were split into teams of two and asked to use camping gear like tents, sleeping bags and backpacks to create one avant-garde design and one ready-to-wear dress.

Calgary designer Adejoke Taiwo and Vancouver designer Kim Cathers teamed up but got cut despite judges calling Taiwo's sleek and sexy dress her best work on the show.

The soft-spoken Taiwo, 25, says the competition was stressful but despite the hardship she's glad she did it, though getting sent home on what the judges themselves said was her best design yet was painful.

"I did the best job I could on every single challenge. If (the judges) don't want to see me flourish, that's their loss," Taiwo said.

Cathers, 29, seldom shied away from expressing her abrasive opinions about the other designers, though she now wishes she had voiced her frustrations less openly, at least on-camera.

"Obviously I'm the bitch on the show. In retrospect, maybe I could have kept the sharp tongue under wraps more," Cathers said.



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Lady GaGa wishes she was alive in the '60s, saying: "I might be arguing with Yoko Ono and trying to win John Lennon's heart and chasing The Beatles in a bus on LSD, hoping that one of them hands me a microphone one day." FEMALEFIRST.CO.UK

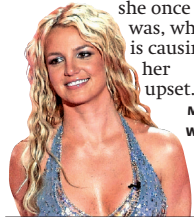
Celebrity Buzz

No laughs over Britney fat jokes

PEOPLE Britney Spears' confidence is reportedly being shaken by criticism about her figure. According to Heat magazine, some have been calling her "Bulky Spears" and "jelly belly," and the jibes aren't sitting well with her.

"Britney has been upset by some of the negative feedback she's been getting," a source tells the magazine. "She's worked so hard on her figure and her fitness."

"She thought she was an unstoppable force, but now it's dawning on her that she's not as revered as she once was, which is causing her upset."



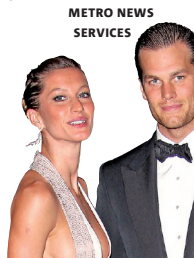
METRO
WORLD
NEWS

Gisele and Tom's wedding, part 2

MARRIAGE After quietly marrying on a Thursday in February, Tom Brady and Gisele Bündchen are going to do it again — with a few more people on the guest list, people.com reports.

The newlyweds have invited friends, family, Brady's New England Patriots teammates and Bündchen's model pals to Costa Rica for a dinner on Friday, April 3, followed by a Saturday replay ceremony and reception, sources say.

It will be considerably bigger than the first ceremony, attended only by Brady's son and a few guests.



METRO NEWS
SERVICES

GETTY IMAGES

Limelight affects Lindsay

PEOPLE Make no mistake; all that time in the unsolicited spotlight hasn't left Lindsay Lohan unscathed, eonline.com reports.

The frequently hounded star has spoken out exclusively to E! News, relaying that the incessant public speculation over the status of her sobriety, the healthiness of her bank account and, perhaps most of



all, her relationship with Samantha Ronson has indeed taken a toll.

"They need to stop saying we're fighting," she said of the media's fixation on the ups and downs of her love life with Ronson. "People

telling lies about me to her and all this garbage. I'm really a good person and I have a good heart and just want to work and the only reason I go to clubs is to hear Samantha spin or be normal."

Lohan urges people not to believe everything they read.

"I don't drink, I don't do drugs and I don't lie," she said. "I love to act and write and be creative and I want to help people by playing characters that can send a positive message out to whomever may need it."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Jacko's Harry Potter fanaticism

PEOPLE Michael Jackson has invited stars of the Harry Potter films to the opening night of his This Is It shows, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

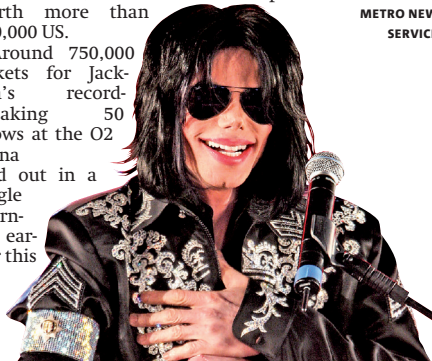
The three main stars from the wizard franchise — Daniel Radcliffe, 19, Emma Watson, 18, and Rupert Grint, 20 — have reportedly been offered all-access passes for Jackson's farewell residency at London's O2 arena in July.

"Michael is a huge fan of the Harry Potter books and films," a source told Britain's The Sun newspaper. "He was utterly enchanted by the magic of J.K. Rowling's novels and owns all the movies and he has bought memorabilia

for his collection."

Jackson is said to be such a Harry Potter fan, he owns a first edition copy of Rowling's debut novel Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone, which is worth more than \$20,000 US.

Around 750,000 tickets for Jackson's record-breaking 50 shows at the O2 arena sold out in a single morning earlier this



METRO NEWS
SERVICES

Rihanna rebounds with Wilmer?

RELATIONSHIP Looking to put some distance between her and Chris Brown, Rihanna reportedly got friendly with Wilmer Valderrama at his weekly karaoke night at Geisha House in Hollywood recently, according to the Daily Mirror.

"They were

chatting and laughing for ages," a source tells the newspaper. "They looked

pretty cozy and relaxed in each other's company. Wilmer was all charm and even had a bottle of champagne for Rihanna."

Valderrama has previously dated Lindsay Lohan, Ashlee Simpson and Paris Hilton.

METRO WORLD
NEWS



METRO NEWS
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I didn't cheat: Jesus

PEOPLE Madonna's boyfriend insists he didn't cheat on her — because his mother was watching him, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

Jesus Luz has blasted reports he kissed lingerie model Luciana Costa, 31, at a party in his native Brazil earlier this month.

"I danced with her, but I

danced with everyone at the party," he said. "My mother was at my side at the party and never would I become intimate with a woman if my mother was nearby — even if I was interested in that person."

Madonna's mother was at my side at the party and never would I become intimate with a woman if my mother was nearby — even if I was interested in that person."

"I danced with her, but I

METRO
NEWS
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Was Twitter final straw for Jen?

BREAKUP Here's another theory as to why Jennifer Aniston and John Mayer called it quits: She dumped him because he's addicted to Twitter.

Sources tell Star magazine Aniston was furious that the singer would claim he didn't have

time for her but spent time

on the site. "She was like, 'He has time for all this Twittering, but he can't send me a text, an email, make a call?' He didn't deny it," a source said.

"He knew he was avoiding her. So when she ended things, he just said OK, and he was sorry it didn't work out."

METRO
NEWS
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Stop the stalking: David

PEOPLE Fame has gotten ugly for American Idol David Cook, who pleaded for privacy while on tour, people.com reports.

"The efforts by some fans to find our hotel rooms, call our hotel rooms, attach things to our bus, etc., is something I

have to condemn," he says on his MySpace blog.

"Should this behavior continue, the only thing we can do is take more preventative measures to maintain our privacy, which in turn makes us less accessible to you."

METRO NEWS
SERVICES

LeAnn, hubby put on a show

PEOPLE LeAnn Rimes kissed husband Dean Sheremet, and he put his arm around her in front of the paparazzi in L.A. on Monday — days after Us Weekly reported she was having an affair with her co-star Eddie Cibrian.

While Rimes has acknowledged she

and Sheremet are going through "a difficult time," she has not denied a relationship with Cibrian.

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